

7.0 Glossary

<i>Alternative</i>	A set of objectives and strategies needed to achieve refuge goals and the desired future condition.
<i>Bioaccumulation:</i>	The accumulation of environmental contaminants as you move up in the food chain.
<i>Biological Diversity</i>	The variety of life forms and its processes, including the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur.
<i>Candidate Species</i>	A species for which the Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support a proposal to list as a threatened or endangered species.
<i>Compatible Use</i>	A wildlife-dependent recreational use, or any other use on a refuge that will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the mission of the Service or the purposes of the refuge.
<i>Comprehensive Conservation Plan</i>	A document that describes the desired future conditions of the refuge, and specifies management actions to achieve refuge goals and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
<i>Conservation Easement</i>	A legal document that provides specific land use rights to a secondary party. A perpetual conservation easement usually grants conservation and management rights to a party in perpetuity.
<i>Cooperative Agreement</i>	A simple habitat protection action in which no property rights are acquired. An agreement is usually long-term and can be modified by either party. Lands under a cooperative agreement do not necessarily become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System

<i>Ecosystem</i>	A dynamic and interrelated complex of plant and animal communities and their associated non-living environment.
<i>Ecosystem Approach</i>	A strategy or plan to protect and restore the natural function, structure, and species composition of an ecosystem, recognizing that all components are interrelated.
<i>Ecosystem Management</i>	Management of an ecosystem that includes all ecological, social and economic components that make up the whole of the system.
<i>Eminent domain</i>	The authority given to Federal agencies to condemn land for the public good. Although it is Service policy to purchase land only from willing sellers, the Service does have this authority and occasionally uses it to clear title with the consent of the landowner.
<i>Endangered Species</i>	Any species of plant or animal defined through the Endangered Species Act as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and published in the <u>Federal Register</u> .
<i>Environmental Assessment</i>	A systematic analysis to determine if proposed actions would result in a significant effect on the quality of the environment.
<i>Environmental Impact Statement</i>	A detailed written statement required by section 102 (2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act analyzing the environmental impacts of a proposed action, adverse effects of the project that cannot be avoided, alternative courses of action, short-term uses of the environment versus the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.
<i>Extirpation</i>	The local extinction of a species that is no longer found in a locality or country, but exists elsewhere in the world.
<i>Fair Market Value</i>	Fair market value is determined by means of an appraisal that examines the current market value of similar properties in the same area. The Service's offer to purchase a specific tract based upon the fair market value cannot be less than the going rate for similar properties in the same

area, nor can it be more than the going rate for similar property.

Fee Title

The acquisition of most or all of the rights to a tract of land. There is a total transfer of property rights with the formal conveyance of title. While a fee title acquisition involves most rights to a property, certain rights may be reserved or not purchased, including water rights, mineral rights, or use reservation, i.e. the ability to continue using the land for a specified time period, or the remainder of the owner's life.

Goals

Descriptive statements of desired future conditions.

Habitat

The environment in which a plant or animal lives, including vegetation, soil, water and other factors.

Issue

Any unsettled matter that requires a management decision. For example, a resource management problem, concern, a threat to natural resources, a conflict in uses, or in the presence of an undesirable resource condition.

*National
Environmental Policy
Act*

The law requires a Federal agency to 1) consider every significant aspect of the environmental impact of a proposed action; 2) involve the public in its decision-making process when considering environmental concerns; 3) use a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to decision-making; and 4) consider a reasonable range of alternatives in every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

*National Wildlife
Refuge System*

All lands, waters, and interests therein administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, and other areas for the protection and conservation of fish, wildlife and plant resources.

Objectives

Actions to be accomplished to achieve a desired outcome.

Preferred Alternative

The Service's selected alternative identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

*Private Initiative
Conservation Area*

The area designated as Private Initiative Conservation Area is included in Alternative 4 and is proposed as a priority area within the watershed where the Service would not acquire any fee title or easement interest in land. The Service would seek to work with landowners on a voluntary basis to implement conservation practices on their land that would benefit water quality and natural resource preservation in the watershed.

*Refuge Revenue
Sharing*

The Refuge Revenue Sharing Act of 1935, as amended, provides for annual payments to counties or the lowest unit of government that collects and distributes taxes based on acreage and value of National Wildlife Refuge System lands within the county. Payments are calculated based on whichever of the following formulas provides the largest return: 1) \$.75 an acre; 2) 25 percent of the net receipts collected from refuge lands in the county; 3) three-quarters of 1 percent of the appraised fair market value.

Scoping

A process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed by an Environmental Impact Statement and for identifying the significant issues. Involved in the scoping process are Federal, state and local agencies; private organizations; and individuals.

Species

A distinctive kind of plant or animal having distinguishable characteristics, and that can interbreed and produce young. A category of biological classification.

*Species of
Concern*

Species being federally monitored because populations are low, declining, or otherwise in a condition that suggest that they could become candidates for Federal threatened or endangered status.

*Wildlife-dependent
Recreational Use*

A use of refuge that involves hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education and interpretation, as identified in the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

Threatened Species

Those plant or animal species likely to become endangered species throughout all of or a significant portion of their range within the

foreseeable future. A plant or animal identified and defined in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the Federal Register.

Vegetation

Plants in general, or the sum total of the plant life in an area.

Vegetation Type

A category of land based on potential or existing dominant plant species of a particular area.

Voluntary Purchase Area:

Area identified in which the Service would be interested in purchasing land from willing sellers for use in preserving or restoring native habitat and fish and wildlife species.

Watershed

The entire land area that collects and drains water into a stream or stream system.

Watershed Conservation Area

The Watershed Conservation Area is proposed as an area of the watershed surrounding the Voluntary Purchase Area. Within this area, easements would be acquired from willing sellers by the Service, State, or some other interested entity to ensure long-term farmland integrity in a way that compliments and enhances the preservation and restoration of habitats acquired in the Voluntary Purchase Area.

Wetland

Areas such as lakes, marshes, and streams that are inundated by surface or ground water for a long enough period of time each year to support, and that do support under natural conditions, plants and animals that require saturated or seasonally saturated soils.

Wildlife Diversity

A measure of the number of wildlife species in an area and their relative abundance.

Willing Seller

An individual who decides, of his or her own volition, to sell land. Service policy is to work only with willing sellers to acquire land for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Act

A law (Public Law 91-646, as amended) that provides certain benefits and payments to persons who relocate as a result of their decision to sell land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.